

# State of South Dakota

## EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2009

831Q0815

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Ahlers, Bartling, Bradford, Fryslie, Garnos, Gillespie, Gray, Hanson (Gary), Howie, Maher, Merchant, Miles, Nesselhuf, Olson (Russell), Peterson, Schmidt, Tieszen, and Turbak Berry and Representatives Lederman, Brunner, Cronin, Deadrick, Elliott, Feickert, Frerichs, Hamiel, Jensen, Juhnke, Kirkeby, Kopp, Lange, Moser, Nygaard, Olson (Betty), Putnam, Sly, Solberg, Steele, Street, Thompson, Verchio, and Wink

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting legislative efforts in other states addressing the  
2 need to provide for equine slaughter and processing in the United States.

3 WHEREAS, there are currently no horse processing facilities in operation in the United  
4 States, and federal legislation was introduced to prohibit the transport or sale of horses and other  
5 equines for slaughter or processing; and

6 WHEREAS, the equine industry faces an unprecedented crisis as thousands of unwanted  
7 horses are exposed to abandonment and neglect because of the cessation of horse slaughter in  
8 the United States, and efforts to prohibit the transport and export of horses for slaughter only  
9 exacerbate this problem; and

10 WHEREAS, there is a critical need for humane horse processing facilities in the United  
11 States. The nation's overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle  
12 the influx of additional abandoned horses each year that results from the cessation of equine  
13 slaughter, processing, and transport activity; and



1 WHEREAS, in the United States, the harvest of animals under federal inspection is highly  
2 regulated to provide for humane handling of the animals and for a safe and wholesome product.  
3 Horse processing in the United States was the most tightly regulated of any animal harvest.  
4 Horse processing facilities cannot be established in the United States unless federal inspection  
5 for such facilities is reinstated; and

6 WHEREAS, the North Dakota Legislature is currently considering HB 1496 to authorize  
7 and fund a feasibility study for an equine processing facility to meet the needs of the equine  
8 industry in the current crisis; and

9 WHEREAS, the Illinois Legislature is considering HB 0583 to reinstate certain inspection  
10 and regulation activity related to horse slaughter and processing facilities as well as other  
11 provisions to facilitate the resumption of such activity in Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature is considering HB 418, a measure to encourage  
13 private horse slaughter plant development. The bill would prohibit state courts from granting  
14 injunctions designed to stop or delay construction of horse slaughter or processing facilities  
15 based on permit or licensing challenges or on environmental grounds; and

16 WHEREAS, the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments  
17 at its 2007 and 2008 meetings passed resolutions in support of horse processing and related  
18 activities in the United States:

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-fourth Legislature  
20 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South  
21 Dakota Legislature supports actions proposed by the state legislatures in North Dakota,  
22 Montana, Illinois, and other states to facilitate the resumption of equine processing and  
23 slaughter in the United States and urges the Congress and the United States Department of  
24 Agriculture to reinstate USDA's inspection program for horse slaughter facilities and to lift

- 1 restrictions on horse slaughter and processing activities and facilities in the United States.